

REMARKS

Prosecution of the present application on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on May 31, 2006.

In the Office Action mailed on May 31, 2006, the Examiner required Applicant to update the status of the related applications mentioned in the specification. The “cross-reference to related applications” section of the specification was amended with the preliminary amendment filed with the application. The amended section only references a provisional patent application. Therefore, there is no need to update the status of any applications.

Also in the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 11 were objected to. The presence of the word “possible” was objected to in claims 1, 6 and 7. Said claims are amended herewith to remove said word. Regarding claim 6, the Examiner objected to the phrase “a plurality of possible candidates.” Said phrase is amended herewith to simply “candidates.”

Claims 2-6 were objected to because the Examiner asserted that “the limitations... are directed to apparatus type claimed limitations rather than method type claimed limitation.” Applicant submits that said claims needn’t be so amended. Claim 1 does include a recitation of “a symbol decoder” and “a decision feedback equalizer” in both the preamble and the body of said claim. Dependent claims 2-6 refer back to these recitations and are therefore believed to be of proper form.

Claim 11 was also objected to. The Examiner indicated that “Viterbi” should be replaced by “symbol” in line 4. Claim 11 is so amended herewith. The Examiner also asserted that “claim 11 should be amended so as to provide proper input to the DFE besides the feedback signals from the decoder and to provide final output to the decoder besides the feedback signals.” Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that there is no requirement to recite all inputs and outputs to/from a claimed device. So long as the claimed structure is not described or suggested in the prior art, the claim should be allowed.

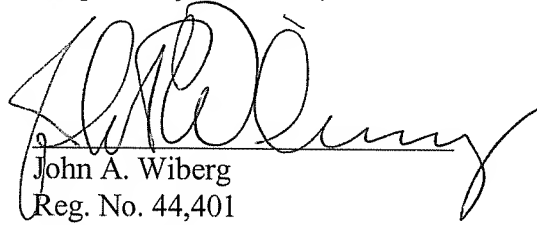
In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1-8 and 11.

Appl. No. 09/804,082
Reply to Office Action of May 31, 2006

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fee(s) or credit overpayment(s) to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: August 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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